

ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE • 105 HALSEY STREET • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102 • (201) 642-4047

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October 15, 1985

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Mr. Joseph Furfey
Manager of Area Development
First Jersey National Bank
1 Exchange Place
Jersey City, N.J. 07302

Dear Mr. Furfey:

ASPIRA wants to thank First Jersey National Bank for its support of ASPIRA'S programs and services in the past year and to briefly summarize the activities your contribution has made possible. Because of your support, ASPIRA was able to serve 1,743 students in the counties of Essex, Passaic and Hudson in 1985. The major programs were in leadership development, counseling and training, drop-out prevention, and guidance in curriculum planning and career choices. ASPIRA placed 313 students in colleges, universities and medical schools in New Jersey and in states across the country.

We are enclosing our latest annual report, which was prepared and printed as an in-kind donation by Scott Printing Corporation, so that you can read in more detail about ASPIRA'S programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I am especially pleased to report on specific achievements this past year. For the first time two of our students won scholarships to a leadership development and cultural enrichment trip to Puerto Rico. While there, these students met with the Mayor of San Juan, the Mayor of Vieques, the Senator and President of the Independent Party, a representative from the Governor's office, and others. They were also able to see the culturally

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significant areas on the island. [An article detailing this worthwhile trip is attached].

Thanks to an in-kind contribution from WNWK, ASPIRA has become computerized. With this advancement, we estimate that the counselors will have approximately 20 to 30% more time to counsel and work with students and, of course, assisting the students is what really counts.

In July, ASPIRA had a float for the first time in the state-wide Puerto Rican Day Parade. ASPIRA's float, sponsored by AT&T Communications, was designed by the newly formed Essex County Student Federation. These students played a large role in the parade and in the organization and funding for the picnic following the parade. We had one of the largest contingencies of students, staff and parents marching with us.

And as always, at the end of the school year, ASPIRA held its Annual Awards Night Ceremony. This ceremony, which recognizes students who have participated in our Leadership Development, Business Careers, Health Careers Programs and ASPIRA Clubs, is very special for it puts the student in the limelight and awards them for their hard work and dedication. During the ceremony the Passaic County ASPIRA Student Federation awarded six scholarships totalling more than \$1900! All the money was raised by the students through activities such as dances, bake sales and the like. We also had more parent participation than ever before, something that is critical if we are going to continue making strides towards a better education for all Hispanic children.

NEED

This year ASPIRA is continuing to work hard to try to provide more services. ASPIRA plans to establish a Homework and Tutorial center at the Essex County Center. Because students do not want to stay after school in unsafe neighborhoods, ASPIRA wants to create an educational haven for them at the Center. The cost for renovating including painting, heating, and ventilation, will be \$4,000.

Both our Health Careers and Business Careers programs have been very successful. 75% of all Hispanics who have entered medical school nationally have gone through the ASPIRA process. Unfortunately, due to funding cutbacks, ASPIRA will have to tighten its health careers budget. This means no salary increases for our counselors. To maintain the degree of professionalism needed and to keep good staff, ASPIRA needs to raise \$27,500 to complement this program.

Through foundation support, our Business Careers Program has helped to channel Hispanic students into business and technical fields. Foundation support is now being decreased because they believe it is time for private corporations, who will benefit directly from a trained minority work force, to start funding the Business Careers Program. ASPIRA is seeking \$40,000 from corporations to augment this program.

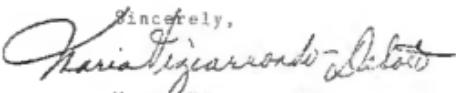
REQUEST

Therefore, as you can see we are looking to our corporate and foundation supporters to contribute to strengthened programs of educational achievement for ASPIRA'S 1985-1986 program year by doubling their contribution.

First Jersey National Bank's last contribution was for \$500. ASPIRA would like you to consider a contribution of \$1000 for ASPIRA'S program this year.

The ASPIRA family thanks you for your past financial gifts in support of our programs for Hispanic and disadvantaged youth and looks forward to a continued relationship.

Sincerely,



Maria Vizcarrondo-De Soto
Executive Director

Encl: Puerto Rico Discovery Article
Annual Report 1984
El Clarin
List of private grants and contributions